



Wadden Sea Forum
38th meeting
Full day online, 29 October 2020

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

The chair of the meeting, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed all participants to the second online WSF meeting this year. The previous WSF 37 meeting was also held as online meeting, due to the corona crisis and travel restrictions.

A list of participants is in **Annex 1**. The chair introduced the program and the draft agenda, which was adopted without any changes and which is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-38 is in **Annex 3**.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-36 and WSF-37

Documents: WSF-36 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-36 meeting on 18-19 November 2019 in Leer, distributed by e-mail of 9 December 2019 (by Manfred Vollmer). The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website www.waddensea-forum.org. Hence, the WSF-37 was a short and concise online meeting at 30 June 2020, therefore no final draft minutes.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF-38 3 Membership list

The WSF secretariat informed the WSF members that new persons have applied for membership in the WSF:

- Mr Karsten Specht of Oldenburgisch-Ostfriesischer Wasserverband (OOWV) as drinking water supplier in north-west Lower Saxony,
- Prof Dr-Ing Peter Milbradt who will represent the Science sector in the WSF and is experienced in mathematical modelling in the Wadden Sea area, e.g. morphology, sediment and hydrodynamics,
- Mr Peter Deyle of German Red Cross District Wesermarsch representing the health care NGO's. The German Red Cross District Wesermarsch jointly applied with the WSF secretariat for a research project on crisis management.

- Mr Karst Jaarsma as the new focal point of The Netherlands and working for the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

Since the retirement of Alma den Hertog for the agricultural sector from The Netherlands in spring 2020, the WSF is in contact with LTO Noord to refill the position, but unfortunately, they declared to be too much engaged in other fields and have right now no possibility to send a representative. The WSF secretariat gets for support of Mr Jaarsma on this issue.

Furthermore, the secretary informed the members that Mr Ivan Abdoellakhan replaced Mr Shawn Lyon from Wintershall/DEA, Hamburg, and that Mr Holger Janssen, formerly EUCC-D, has left.

Mr Friis-Hauge stated that the former secretary of the WSF society and managing director of the WSF, Mr Manfred Vollmer, declared that although he retired in summer he would like to remain as a private member in the society.

4. Announcements

The WSF secretary stated that a meeting with the Minister for Science and Culture in Lower Saxony (Mr Björn Thümler) was settled for 30 October 2020 but was cancelled this morning due to the arisen corona crisis actions announced by the German Chancellor. The meeting is postponed to 18 December 2020 from 10:00-11:30.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Documents: WSF-38 6 Minutes SC-2020-2

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2020-2 at 18 September 2020. The secretary mentioned that the meeting was not held personally in Bremen as published but was switched to an online meeting.

6. Discussion: Roadmap to Future WSF - "Green Coastal Deal"

Document: WSF-38 7 WSF Draft Roadmap Green Coastal Deal

The WSF secretariat explained the new WSF strategy/roadmap to work toward a "Green Coastal Deal" for the Wadden Sea Region in the future.

Ms Klinge welcomed the idea of installing Regional Round Tables (RRT) and emphasised that more people could be invited to become a part of the work within the WSF.

Mr Rösner welcomed the presentation and the outlook for the WSF; and in general to take the term "green" in "Green Coast Deal" very serious by focussing the work on a more sustainable development in the region. He was in favour to meet just once a year in person, but then for two full days with interesting presentations and much more in-depth discussions. In addition, there should be short video conferences on specific issues when required. He supported the RRT proposal, but considered it to be not an easy task to establish in all four regions. If possible, it should be combined with other regional initiatives to avoid double work.

Mr Uhlendorf stated that with more interesting and attractive topics more members could be motivated to join the plenary meetings. He mentioned that interactions only have been taken on trilateral basis and not at stakeholder basis. Therefore, he as well is very much in favour of the Round Tables within the Regions, which would also solve the language barrier problem. Moreover, he stated that the WSF could get influence through in-depth discussion and the preparation recommendations for both policy makers and Trilateral Governmental Conference.

Mr Hinrichs emphasised that meetings should display a benefit for the participants. Therefore, the WSF demands for good projects, which either are dealing with urgent topics (e.g. shipping safety) or are linked to concrete implementations.

Mr Jaarsma indicated that establishing double or parallel structures should definitely be avoided. He emphasises to concentrate on concrete ideas and concrete projects, which achieve more visibility and the power to influence politics.

Mr Neef indicated that the Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied (northern Netherlands) could be contacted in order to investigate potential interrelationships with the WSF. In general, the RRT should be mounted into existing structure in respective regions of the Wadden Sea area.

Mr Deyle emphasised that the new contacts and further discussions could be held in RRT.

Ms Krag Svendsen recalled what the WSF provides for the stakeholders and emphasised that the WSF has to re-vitalise and be more visible at the WSB agenda.

The **conclusions** of this intense and comprehensive discussion is described in **Annex 3**.

7. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF-38 & Summary progress report

Additionally to the information given in the document, the secretary reported about some topics in more detail:

- Round Table "shipping safety" (request by the Wadden Sea Board)
- Sustainable ports – Small Wadden Sea Harbours Initiative (request of business development from SH and DK)
- Accessibility to Wadden Sea Harbours (request of municipality from Nds, MCN)
- Dark Sky Initiative (supported by Wadden Sea Board/PH)
- Risk/Crisis management – Management of volunteers: This was an approach and request of WSF member together with German Red Cross Wesermarsch and the County of Dithmarschen to establish a project on this issue by gaining national funding. The application has already been placed and the decision will be due for 2nd step in Nov. 2020
- Resilient Wadden Sea Communities – Demographic Change: Wadden Sea communities are suffering due to the Corona crisis and demographic change; this project proposal will work on solution approaches. The application has already been placed and the decision will be due for 2nd step in Nov. 2020
- Goose Management: An informal meeting took place on 21 October 2020 to exchange views and information on this topic. It was agreed to re-vitalise the WSF working group on demand.

- Initiative for Energy Transition in the WSR (e.g. hydrogen, pilot regions): It was a request of WSF members to work on this topic to discuss developments of energy transition in the Wadden Sea Region on a trilateral basis.
- Salinization in WSR (request of a new WSF member , external contacts)
- TV coverage of WSF by Public Access Channels (Bürgersender): In cooperation with OldenburgEins, Radio WeserTV, Radio Jade, Radio Ostfriesland a TV coverage of the WSF will be produced from 2021 onwards. Incorporating several Wadden Sea related institutions in Wilhelmshaven, also a media workstation for young people will be installed.
- Trilateral Initiative of Public Access Channel (TRIN-PAC): Scaling-up the approach of the TV coverage for the WSF and enabling better cooperation of public access channels along the Wadden Sea Region.

Media: Regarding the public performance of the WSF, many media changes have taken place since the beginning of this year. The WSF homepage changed in May its surface and is now bilingual (English and German). On top of the already existing Facebook account, a new Instagram account has been established to widen and to raise the level of awareness to provide information about the work of the WSF. The WSF Flyer has been refreshed and updated and the local public channel "OldenburgEins" could be convinced to work on a closer relationship in the near future to also raising awareness (see projects above).

Finally, the WSF secretary offered the idea of establishing *WSF Ambassadors* in each region. The potential function of these ambassadors could comprehend: Keep eyes and ears open, spread the news on WSF, support in dissemination and increase visibility. The WSF secretary informs the meeting that already one interested person in Lower Saxony is identified: former Member of State Parliament. The **meeting concluded** to postpone a decision and asked the WSF secretariat to elaborate this item further, i.e. drafting terms of references.

8. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

Representatives of the advisory boards were invited to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organisations.

Denmark:

Mr Friis-Hauge briefly introduced the key topics discussed in the advisory board on 25 October 2019:

- Esbjerg, plastic action plan strategy by KIMO
- Esbjerg, municipal spatial planning strategy for next 4 years
- Cultural History Workshop, presentation at museum
- Presentation by DK Bird Association; Resolution for awareness for birds will be taken
- Next WSB meeting in Feb 2021
- Nakuwa – Information by Anne Marboe Husum

Lower Saxony / Schleswig-Holstein:

Mr Rösner reported about some aspects of the work of the advisory boards in Germany: In Lower Saxony, resolutions on more shipping safety and concerning a solution for dumped World War ammunition were agreed. A resolution on shipping safety is also on the way in the advisory boards in Schleswig-Holstein, focussing also on improvements for the PSSA Wadden Sea.

9. Discussion: Concept for Partner-Hub involvement

The WSF secretary informs shortly about the status of the Partnership Hub (PH). Ms Sobottka enhanced the explanation on the PH ad hoc: At present, the PH is in a testing phase, this phase will last approx. 3 years. A new member of staff joined on 1 September the PH management unit, associated with to the CWSS: Ms Nazzari. Existing networks were involved along the Partnership journey right from the start (signing the MoU in 2019). Ms Sobottka emphasises that no competition or parallel structures to the WSF is intended with the development of the PH and that the PH is going to offer services with reference to the Concept for the Partnership Hub. Participants asking which services the PH will provide, which could not be answered satisfactorily because the PH unit has just taken up operation.

Although, these ad hoc explanations were given, participants raised their concerns about competitive and parallel structures. Furthermore, participants who are not fully involved in the development of the PH indicated that they lost track. Some participants imagine that the WSF covers most of these items. The PH explains that specific projects are mounted at the PH, e.g. shipping¹. The WSF is responsible for the organisation and conduction of the Round Table "Shipping Safety", but many more activities vibrate around the shipping and ports topic. If a PH is going to offer services one these might be the coordination of these existing loose strands. Ms Sobottka offered to report more detailed at the next WSF plenary meeting.

The plenary meeting **concluded** that the WSF secretary conducts bilateral talk with PH staff on the topic of shipping and to put the Partnership Hub on the agenda of the next plenary meeting..

10. WSF Budget 2020 to 2022

Document: WSF-38 11 WSF Budget 2020 - 2022

The WSF secretariat informed the plenary meeting about the budget appropriation for 2021 and 2022 and showed a map regarding the contributing counties and countries. Based on the status, the budget for 2021 will be positive balanced and the budget for 2022 displays a light negative balance of approx. 1.000 Euro.

The WSF secretary informed the meeting that, when he took over in August, the financial position of the WSF was not that stable as it is now. The serious situation was solved with the support and efforts of the Danish WS secretariat and the four Danish WS municipalities: An

¹ Comment of participant: This sentence reflects a false estimation, the WSF has regularly reported progress on a Round Table Shipping within the OPTeamPH among the partnership's activities.

additional (one-time) contribution of 7.500 Euro on top of their annual contribution of 20.000 Euro was paid to fill the urgent gap.

Mr Friis-Hauge informed that due to the commitment of WSF member, Mr Poul Fremmelev, the Region Syddanmark could be convinced to become a member of the WSF and to support the WSF financially with 7.500 Euro in 2020 and 15.000 Euro starting in 2021.

He also stated that there have been discussions at the latest EC meeting to contact the currently contributing members in order to raise their financial contribution continuously due to the continuously rising salaries. However, it was thought that it could discourage these members and may lead to withdrawal. The decision was not to implement this approach. He also indicated that the financial contributions of the three states in the TWSC is unbalanced and that Germany is still not fulfilling its obligations and Schleswig-Holstein's financial support ends in 2021. The EC is in favour of trying to recruit new members, which are willing to support the WSF financially in order to fill the financial gap and approach them at a later stage about raising their support with regard to salary rise.

The WSF secretariat informed the plenary meeting that the county of Dithmarschen raised its financial contribution to 7.500 Euro annually and that Wintershall/DEA will increase their annual support to 7.500 Euro in 2021. The new WSF member OOWV has announced to contribute with 3.000 Euro annually to the WSF budget starting next year.

Participants asked what has been done to contact other possible supporters and was informed by the WSF secretariat that already other meetings have taken place to gain more supporters and to inform them about the work and the financial situation of the WSF:

With the Minister for the Environment in Lower Saxony (Mr Olaf Lies), Bündnis90/Die Grünen state parliament member (Ms Meta Janssen-Kucz, together with Ms Bärbel Kraus and Mr Ulf Berner) as well as SPD member of the state parliament (Mr Holger Ansmann). The meeting with the Minister for Science and Culture in Lower Saxony (Mr Björn Thümler) was settled for tomorrow but is now postponed to 18 December 2020.

Mr Uhlendorf suggested not asking for funding solely. He emphasises the WSF should offer benefit on specific items and based thereon ask for financial support. Furthermore, he asked whether there would be the possibility to find sponsors on budget items to raise support and fill the gap, e.g. public relation items.

Ms Ratter mentioned to introduce the minister for Science and Culture in the meeting in December with the new WSF topics Green Coastal Deal and sustainable goals in the EU to gain financial support by the ministry.

The plenary meeting **took note** of the budget appropriation and supports the WSF in order to close the financial gap.

11. Next Meeting

The meeting agreed to hold the WSF-39 meeting in Skaerbaek, DK, on 17-18 March 2021.

The WSF-40 meeting will be in autumn 2021 and will probably take place in Nordfriesland, Schleswig-Holstein.

12. Any other Business

No other business discussed.

13. Closing

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and contributions and closed the meeting at 15:35 hours on 29 October 2020.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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DRAFT AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-36 and WSF-37**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Discussion: Roadmap to Future WSF - "Green Coastal Deal"**
- Agenda item 7. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 8. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**
- Agenda item 9. Discussion: Concept for Partner-Hub involvement**
- Agenda item 10. WSF Budget 2020 to 2022**
- Agenda item 11. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 12. Any other Business**
- Agenda item 13. Closing**

ANNEX 3

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DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Agenda item 6

- Re-vitalisation of the WSF cooperation
- Preliminary aims of the RRT:
 - In-depth discussions on specific topics, drafting recommendations
 - Developing cross-sectoral consent if possible
 - Get more power by involving more stakeholders and provide a broader negotiation and deliberation platform
- To enliven the cooperation within the WSF different suggestions exist:
 - a. One Plenary meeting a year for three days, 2 overnight stays, and in addition video calls for specific issues when required
 - b. Two Plenary meetings a year
 - i. A three day meeting
 - ii. A two day meeting
 - c. Two plenary meetings a year
 - i. A live meeting
 - ii. An online meeting
 - d. RRT between the plenary meetings
 - e. Online meetings between the plenary meetings
- Ideas where to mount the RRT:
 - DK: Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board: contact Preben Friis-Hauge and Anne Krag Svendsen
 - NL: Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied: contact via Karst Jaarsma
 - D:
 - i. Schleswig-Holstein: potentially connect to the existing National Park Advisory Boards, they have joint meetings: contact Stefan Mohrdieck
 - ii. Lower Saxony: ?

Agenda item 9

WSF secretariat to conduct a bilateral meeting with PH staff.